



July 1, 1997

Ref:97-DAL-WL-33

**WARNING LETTER**

**FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Mr. Robert Bannon, President  
Petro Chemicals  
One Allen Center  
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Mr. Bannon:

During an inspection of your Sterling Chemicals, Inc. vessel watering point on June 24, 1997, our investigator documented deviations from Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1250. Therefore, the referenced vessel watering point has been classified as "Provisional."

Our investigation revealed significant insanitary conditions, including:

1. The potable water outlet on dock four was not provided with an end cap and keeper chain.
2. The potable water outlet on dock four was on the same pier with non-potable hydrants and was not identified.
3. A water hose attached to the potable water outlet on dock four was not protected.

This letter is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of deficiencies at your vessel watering point and it is your responsibility to ensure adherence to each requirement of the regulations. You should assure that all vessel watering points under your control are in compliance with the regulations.

A list of Inspectional Observations (FDA-483) was issued to and discussed with a responsible individual at the firm. A copy of the FDA-483 is enclosed for your reference. Please review the observations noted by the investigator at the Texas City location

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inspected. You should take prompt action to correct these deviations and ensure that future violations do not recur. Failure to correct these critical violations can result in further action by FDA. Your vessel watering point may be placed on a "Not Approved" status if future similar violations occur.

You should notify this office in writing, within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this letter, stating the specific steps you have taken to correct the aforementioned violations. Your reply should be directed to Gwen Gilbreath, Compliance Officer, at the above letterhead address.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Baca  
Dallas District Director

JRB:GSG

cc. Ms. Deborah E. Pickering  
Environmental Engineer  
Sterling Chemicals, Inc.  
201 Bay Street South  
Texas City, Texas 77590

Mr. Paul Saunders  
Plant Manager